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June 29, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
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From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer
Sheryl L. Spiller, Acting Director
Department of Public Social Services

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND OUTCOMES OF THE EXPANSION OF
THE GENERAL RELIEF HOUSING SUBSIDY AND CASE MANAGEMENT PROJECT
AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING CONTINUATION OF THE EXPANSION OF
THE NUMBER OF HOUSING SUBSIDIES**

On February 9, 2010, the Board approved the recommendation to implement the restructuring of the General Relief (GR) Program. A major component of the restructuring effort included an expansion of the GR Housing Subsidy and Case Management Project (Project). At that time, the Board instructed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Director of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), to return to the Board in June 2012, with a report on the implementation and outcomes of the expansion of the Project (GR Restructuring Recommendation No. 5) and recommendations regarding the continuation of the expansion of the number of housing subsidies, and not to expand the number of subsidies in effect as of June 2012 without specific authorization by the Board.

Background

The Project was implemented on July 25, 2006, as part of the County's Homeless Prevention Initiative (HPI) with an ongoing \$4.2 million in annual HPI funding.

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Originally, the program served a total of 900 GR homeless participants. Participants were provided a rental subsidy up to \$300 and the participant had to contribute \$136 of their monthly GR grant towards their rent.

On October 6, 2009, the Board approved the expansion of the Project. Through this expansion, the housing subsidies would be incrementally expanded through December 2014, up to a potential maximum of 10,000 subsidies. The expansion would be fully funded through (a) Interim Assistance Reimbursement of GR grant expenditures and housing subsidy costs, and (b) prospective GR grant savings, for homeless GR participants who receive a housing subsidy and then exit GR with employment, SSI, or Veterans Disability benefits.

Program Expansion

The initial expansion included an additional 640 housing subsidy slots in FY 2010-11. On August 2, 2010, the expansion of the Project was implemented, resulting in a total of 1,540 housing subsidies (900 original subsidies plus 640 new subsidies). As approved by the Board, the GR Housing Subsidy amount was increased from \$300 to **\$400**, and the participant's contribution from the GR grant was reduced from \$136 to **\$100** per month.

Since implementation of the Project expansion in August 2010, 444 participants receiving the housing subsidy have exited GR with SSI or employment. Under the methodology included in the February 2010 GR restructuring board letter, the savings associated with these participants are not sufficient to fund a further expansion of the Project at this time.

Recommendation

The CEO Service Integration Branch (CEO-SIB) is currently conducting a study on the expansion of the Project, as part of the evaluation of GR restructuring directed by the Board. This study is targeted for release by September 2012; it will address the outcomes and impacts of the expanded Project, including expenditures across a wide range of County departments. Following release of the CEO-SIB study, we will provide the Board with recommendations regarding the potential future expansion of General Relief Housing Subsidy and Case Management Project.

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If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact us, or your staff may contact Antonia Jiménez at (213) 974-7365, or via email at ajimenez@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:AJ:DS
SP:JAB:gj

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

Report on The Implementation and Outcomes of The Expansion of The GRHS and CMP-N: \Board Memo's 2012